

GOODBYE, Old 1915, may the memories of those you have favored be everlasting.

The Topeka State Journal

WEATHER forecast for Kansas: Rain tonight and probably Saturday; not much change in temperature.

HOME EDITION

TOPEKA, KANSAS, FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 31, 1915—TEN PAGES

THIS EDITION 2 CENTS

GREAT BRITISH CRUISER SINKS WITH 325 MEN

Natal Blown Up in Harbor; All Aboard Lost.

Of Crew of 725 About 400 Were on Shore.

ITS OWN MAGAZINE EXPLODED

Most Serious Loss to English Navy Since April.

Warrior Was 480 Feet Long, Carried 9-In. Guns.

London, Dec. 31.—The British cruiser *Natal* was blown to pieces in the harbor yesterday afternoon with a probable loss of about 325 men. The official statement from the admiralty said the cruiser was wrecked by an internal explosion. The admiralty's statement reported that 400 of the *Natal's* crew of about 725 were saved. It is believed many if not all of these were ashore when the cruiser sank.

An immediate investigation has been ordered but the results have not been made public. News of the disaster was withheld from publication for nearly twenty-four hours until the admiralty had received accurate statements as to the number of survivors and probable loss of lives.

The same precaution was taken last May when the *Princess Irene* was blown to bits by a similar explosion in the harbor. Officials explained at that time that the news was withheld to prevent the circulation of rumors concerning the cause of the explosion.

Lost to British. The *Natal's* sinking is the severest loss the British navy has sustained in several months. No British naval vessel of importance had been sunk since last May, when the *Triumph* and *Majestic* were torpedoed at the Llandovery Castle. The *Natal*, although a powerful man of war, was laid down eleven years ago and her displacement was about 1,200 tons.

The *Natal's* normal complement was 725 men. Her displacement was 13,600 tons. She was 480 feet long and 73 feet of beam. Her largest guns were 9.2 inch. Of these she carried three forward and three aft. She was armed also with four 7.5 inch guns, twenty-four three pounders and three torpedo tubes. The *Natal* brought to America from Portsmouth the body of Walter R. Field, American ambassador at London after his death in 1912, remaining at New York for two weeks.

Sink French Submarine. Vienna, Dec. 31.—An Austrian submarine sank the French submarine *Monge* in the harbor of Durazzo Thursday morning a few hours before the naval battle in which two Austrian destroyers were sunk. It was officially announced today.

The second officer and fifteen of the crew of the French submarine were made prisoners by the Austrians. The *Monge* was composed of five destroyers and the cruiser *Helgoland*.

Where Did It Happen? In accordance with its procedure of late, the admiralty has given no indication as to the locality of the national disaster.

The military regulations make it impossible to give this information publicly. The loss is generally attributed to foul play. In support of this theory attention is called to similar disasters which overtook the British battleship *Bulwark*, which was blown up off Sheerness in November of last year with a loss of 1,000 men, and the British steamship *Princess Irene*, blown up in Sheerness harbor last May with the loss of between 300 and 400 lives.

FAMILY MURDERED

Surviving Son Charged With Slaying Parents and Brother With Axe.

New Boston, Tex., Dec. 31.—J. Mayfield, 70, a farmer living north of here, his wife, 65, and their son, L. L. Mayfield, 43, were killed in their home last night. An axe was used. A younger son, W. J. Mayfield, 40, has been arrested on a warrant charging him with murder.

W. J. Mayfield reported the murders, saying he had found his father, mother and brother dead with their heads split open when he returned to the house from a lodge meeting the night before. Bloodhounds taken to the scene refused to leave the house. The son refused to discuss the matter after he had been taken into custody. It is reported the family had a quarrel Christmas day.

EARTH TREMBLE FELT IN ST. LOUIS THIS MORNING

St. Louis, Dec. 31.—An earthquake shock lasting fifteen minutes was recorded at 6:30 o'clock this morning on the seismograph of St. Louis university.

The direction apparently was southeast by south, and the distance was approximately 1,700 miles from St. Louis.

For four days the seismograph has been restless.

Buffalo, Dec. 31.—An earthquake shock preceded by pronounced tremors for 15 hours was recorded on the seismograph at Buffalo college today. The quake which began at 7:30 and lasted five minutes was estimated to be about 2,500 miles southwest.

Pity the Kaiser Boil and War Have 'm Down

London, Dec. 31.—A wireless dispatch from Berlin says the *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, giving information from an authoritative source of the report that Emperor William is suffering from a boil. The emperor is not confined to bed.

The unsettled weather makes it appear advisable that the emperor should keep to his room for a few days.

"His work has not been interrupted. He receives his reports daily as usual."

BANK CALL IS OUT

State Commissioner Asks for a Report of Conditions.

Of State Concerns at Close of Business Today.

LAST REPORT WAS SEPT. 15

It Showed Total Deposits of \$129,057,097.78.

The Record for the State Was Made in June.

A call was issued late this afternoon by W. F. Benson, state bank commissioner, for a report as to conditions of the 950 state banks in Kansas. The reports will cover conditions of the state banks for this date. In issuing a call for this date, the state bank department came under the wire just ahead of the state law which requires four reports each year from the state banks. State bankers in all sections of Kansas anticipated a call today, but there was a general impression that the call would be dated back to some period within the holiday season and just following the December tax payment. The call for today's condition, however, will give the state an exact report on the condition of the state bank business at the close of the calendar year.

Much interest centers in the call which came late this afternoon from the state bank department. Whether the state bank will be able at this time to establish a new high water mark in deposits occasions a difference of opinion among bankers. Kansas has just paid her Christmas shopping bills and her December taxes and cleaned up outstanding accounts for the year. These bills have been paid in drain on the funds of thousands of Kansans and there is doubt as to whether the showing will exceed that of September 15.

The Latest Report. The report from state banks for September 15, showed deposits of \$129,057,097.78.

TO PAY FOR LIVES

U. S. Demands Reparation for Americans Lost.

Ancona Affair Closed If Austria Will Settle.

Washington, Dec. 31.—American demands on Austria-Hungary in connection with the destruction of the *Ancona* apparently have been met in the new note received today from Vienna at Washington. If the official text of Austria's reply to the second American demand to press dispatches asking the communication announced the submarine commander who torpedoed the steamer had been punished, virtually only one phase of the incident remains to be cleared up. That would be the payment of indemnity for American lives lost, for which Austria has expressed a willingness to make reparation. Later, however, there may be full exchanges between the United States and Austria on the question of submarine warfare and the necessity for warning before attacking merchantmen.

It was pointed out here that in punishing the submarine commander for failing to take into account the panic prevailing aboard the *Ancona* before torpedoing the vessel, the Austrian government in effect disavowed the act and gave assurance that there would be no repetition of such an incident.

More Than Demanded. The three demands of the United States, disavowal of the *Ancona's* sinking, while passengers were still aboard, punishment of the submarine commander and reparation for American lives lost, officials declare have been in effect granted by Austria.

Officials were especially elated over the fact that Austria went even further than the United States demanded—by giving assurances of future conduct of her submarine warfare according to international law. It was considered doubtful that the official text would be given out for (Continued on Page Two.)

STILL CRITICALLY ILL

There Is No Change in the Condition of Judge A. W. Benson.

No change was reported this afternoon in the condition of Judge A. W. Benson, who is seriously sick at the home of his daughter, Mrs. H. Ward Page, 801 Lane street. He has not regained consciousness since his attack of cerebral hemorrhage early Thursday morning and his condition is regarded as critical.

Physicians and members of Judge Benson's immediate family are in constant attendance. Members of the family stated this afternoon that no change had been noted in the stricken man's condition.

LOCK BARN DOOR

Topeka Watches Rock Island Offices Move Away.

Commercial Club Committee Bids 'Em Goodbye.

JOBS FOR ALL EMPLOYEES

General Manager Beacom Says There Is Work for All.

Official Says Topeka Would Be Place for Shops.

Graciously and diplomatically, Topeka locked securely the "barn door" of the Rock Island general office building this afternoon. But not until the "horse" had escaped. The headquarters of the second district in Topeka are no more. Tomorrow morning only a few carpenters, clerks and employees of the Rock Island will occupy the once proud building. Then Topeka is a stopping point where passengers will deposit their fares and shippers will route their freight—and receive thanks from behind closed windows.

This afternoon a committee from the Commercial club representing some of the largest customers of the Rock Island in Kansas, called on General Manager Beacom, who is here for a few hours only—and delivered what might be termed a "friendly threat" concerning the road's action in moving its offices from this city to other parts of the system.

Declaring that he felt sorry for Topeka, admitting that it was the action of the officials higher up that planned the move, and promising to a certain extent that, perhaps, there was a chance that Topeka might some day be assigned employees of other departments to make up for this telling blow of today, General Manager Beacom delivered a few well chosen and diplomatic remarks.

Have a Dinner Anyway. Then the sad Topekans invited the general manager to a dinner to be held at the Commercial club quarters the next time Mr. Beacom could arrange to be in the city.

A delegation of about 20 members of the Commercial club called on the general manager to protest against the removal of the road's offices from Topeka. Charles S. Elliott, president, Governor Capper and several business men made brief talks, outlining the friendship and loyalty of Topeka and the railroad. They asked that other offices be brought here to take the place of the Rock Island.

History of Case. Several years ago Atchison city extended a franchise to the Atchison Railway, Light & Power company. In the gas franchise gave provision in the gas franchise gave (Continued on Page 2.)

THOMPSON HELD

Sheriff's Force Brings Famous Topekan Before Court.

Action Filed Against Him by His Divorced Wife.

Donald C. Thompson, the daredevil war photographer, today discovered that matrimony is worse than war. This morning Elizabeth E. Thompson, who secured a divorce from Thompson in 1910, filed an affidavit and motion in the district court asking that Thompson be brought into court to show cause for not paying \$15 a month alimony.

In her petition Mrs. Thompson declares that when her divorce was granted in 1910 the court ordered Thompson to pay her \$15 a month alimony and that he has failed to pay this money. The affidavit further shows that Thompson is \$900 in arrears on this payment and that he now has property and large sums of money.

Mrs. Thompson asks that a warrant for the arrest of Thompson be issued to bring him into court to be held before he has an opportunity to get out of the state.

"I shall ask, undersigned, went to serve the order on Thompson at 10 o'clock this morning.

The sheriff's force arrested Thompson shortly after noon today and he was taken to the county jail where he was booked. Later he appeared before the district court and arranged for his freedom until trial. Thompson did not give a bond but convinced Judge McComb that he would arrange for that later.

A deputy sheriff had been detailed to watch Thompson this afternoon and tonight.

Mrs. Thompson was formerly Miss Elizabeth Bower of Topeka and she came from New York city to Topeka for the purpose of bringing this action against the photographer.

After his arrest this noon Thompson stated that he had nothing to say about the case.

He said that if he tried before a jury, he said that that was all.

MORE RAIN COMING

Temperature Is Expected to Undergo But Little Change.

A slight rainfall, not enough to measure, and a temperature of only 1 degree below freezing, marked the weather last night. Little change, except for more rain, is the prospect for tonight and Saturday. The forecast calls for rain tonight and probably Saturday; about the same temperature. The indications are that temperatures of 25 to 30 degrees for 36-hour shipments north and west; south and east, above freezing. The indications are that temperatures of about freezing at Topeka tonight.

Following are hourly temperature readings for today:

7 o'clock.....22	11 o'clock.....26
8 o'clock.....24	12 o'clock.....27
9 o'clock.....32	1 o'clock.....28
10 o'clock.....35	2 o'clock.....39

Kind Talk To Bossie Makes Farmer Cash

Madison, Wis., Dec. 31.—"How to make small farm pay" is the subject of a bulletin just issued by the Wisconsin Bankers' association. It is one of the series of bulletins which are being distributed to farmers of the state.

"To succeed in farming you must love and enjoy your work," it says. "Study your fields and know their weaknesses and possibilities. Utilize all the forces of the state."

"Speaking of cows, it is pointed out that 'a soft bed and a gentle, kindling water for the cow increases the dividends from the milk pails.'"

P. U. C. DEFENSIVE

Shawnee Co. District Court Grants Restraining Order.

Prevents Enforcement of Decrease in Gas Rate Case.

ON COMPLAINT OF ATCHISON

City Objects to Being Deprived of Free Gas.

Case Will Affect a Number of Towns in Kansas.

That 28-cent gas rate order of the public utilities commission struck another stone wall today when Atchison city sought to enjoin the commission's act in setting aside franchise agreements with Kansas towns. The Shawnee county district court granted a restraining order against the commission and Joseph L. Bristow and his associates must now defend their order vacating franchise agreements in a number of towns of the state.

Under the order issued by Bristow December 19, the Kansas Natural and its distributing companies are forbidden the right of carrying out the special rate for free gas. Franchise agreements with a number of towns provide for free gas concessions. Atchison, which has been enjoying a free gas privilege, is willing to continue under the agreement. The gas company was explained by Wilbur J. Carr, director of the consular service.

James A. Farrell, president of the United States Steel corporation and chairman of the National Foreign Trade council, talked of the special training essential for service in the foreign trade. What is being done by the United States to train men for the consular service was explained by Wilbur J. Carr, director of the consular service.

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FOR MUTUAL AID

Pan American Nations to Join in Defense.

All Would Unite to Repel Invasion of U. S.

MONROE DOCTRINE EVOLUTION

Greatest Step Possible for Universal Peace.

America Will Be Blamed by Loser in Big War.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Evolution of the Monroe Doctrine into a Pan-American doctrine was predicted by John Barrett, director general of the Pan-American union, in an address at the educational conference on foreign service training in conjunction with the congress. He declared the test would come after the conclusion of the European war when, he said, "whichever side loses will say that it lost because of the attitude of the United States and its sister American republics."

In the minds of all the delegates from Latin-America here Mr. Barrett said there was the thought, "the American republics must stand together for eventualities that may possibly develop."

All Pan-America, he said, will therefore rejoice if this conference shall give the inspiration, though it may not be able to write the act because it is not a political gathering, for the actual evolution of the Monroe Doctrine into a Pan-American doctrine which will mean that the Latin-American republics, in the event the United States were attacked by a foreign foe, would with all their physical and moral force stand for the protection and sovereignty of the United States under corresponding circumstances would stand for their sovereignty and peace of Pan-America and the greatest step possible for practical peace among all nations would be achieved.

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THE OPENING BILL.

FIRST APPEARANCE AT THE WORLD THEATRE THE NEW PLAY "1916"

A PLAY OF LAUGHTER AND TEARS, OF LOVE AND HATE, OF WAR AND PEACE, A PLAY FOR THE YOUNG AND THE OLD, FOR THE MARRIED AND UNMARRIED, FOR THOSE WHO ARE RICH AND THOSE WHO ARE POOR.

ON THE LAST LAP

Ford Peace Ship—Without "Hen."—In Denmark.

Leaders Have Abandoned Hopes of Passage to Germany.

BY CHARLES P. STEWART. (Written for State Journal.)

Copenhagen, Dec. 31.—The Ford peace party arrived in Denmark from Stockholm today on the last lap of the cruise to "bring the boys out of the trenches."

Business Manager Gaston Plantiff hurried out to see shipping men about chartering a vessel to carry the delegates to The Hague. It is quite probable, however, that the party will accept Mayor Lindhagen's invitation and return to Stockholm for the peace conference.

The Ford leaders virtually have abandoned hope of obtaining Germany's permission for their passage over German soil on the way to The Hague from Copenhagen.

Is Ford Sausage? New York, Dec. 31.—The steamship *Bergendord*, on which Henry Ford is returning from his peace expedition, has been delayed by high westerly gales and will not reach this port until Sunday morning, according to a radio message from the steamer today.

SEIZE OFFICIALS

Greece Protests to Arrest of Diplomats by Allies.

Ambassadors of Central Powers Harbor Spies Is Charged.

Rome, Dec. 31.—Greece has addressed a formal protest to the allies against the arrest of diplomatic representatives of the central powers by Anglo-French military commanders at Saloniki, according to Athens advices today.

The news has created great excitement in diplomatic circles in Athens. German and Austrian ambassadors visited the foreign office yesterday afternoon and inquired if the reports were true. At that hour the Greek government had no confirmation and it was stated later that protests had been made.